

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: ) Before the Examiner:  
Fred J. Molz, IV ) Javier G. Blanco  
Serial No.: 10/757,819 ) ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
Filed: January 15, 2004 ) ) Docket: MSDI-667/PC860.00  
SPINAL IMPLANT CONSTRUCT AND )  
METHOD FOR IMPLANTATION )

DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES  
TO OVERCOME CITED PATENT OR PUBLICATION (37 C.F.R. §1.131)

I, Fred J. Molz, IV, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the sole inventor of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the subject patent application (hereafter "the Invention").
2. U.S. Patent No. 7,195,643 to Jackson was cited in a final Office Action mailed to the Applicant on September 26, 2007. This Declaration is being provided to establish a date of conception of the Invention in the United States on a date prior to August 29, 2003, which is the purported effective filing date of U.S. Patent No. 7,195,643 to Jackson.
3. On a date prior to August 29, 2003, the Invention was conceived of by me in the United States. The Invention was submitted for review by representatives of the Applicant via an Invention Disclosure document (copy attached) including drawings and a description of the Invention that correspond to the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the subject patent application. The dates listed on the Invention Disclosure and other non-critical information have been redacted. However, I declare that the "Date Conceived" listed in the Invention Disclosure occurred on a date prior to August 29, 2003.
4. Via a correspondence dated August 12, 2003 (copy attached), the firm of Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry was instructed to prepare a draft patent application based on subject matter set forth in the Invention Disclosure.
5. Following review/revision of the draft patent application, the subject patent application was filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 15, 2004.

WITNESS: Declarant's hand this 12 day of November, 2007.

Fred J. Molz, IV

Fred J. Molz, IV

## INVENTION DISCLOSURE



SOFAMOR DANEK

	Disclosure No.
	PC86900

Sheet 1 of 3

Title of Invention		Project No. or Name
Combination plate and interbody fusion construct and Method for implanting		
Inventor(s)		Eng. Notebook No. & Pages
Fred Molz		
Date Conceived [REDACTED]	Date Constructed	Date First Tested
		Date Disclosed Outside Company

## 1. Describe what is new or different about the subject matter of this invention:

Device incorporates a plate and attached interbody cage. The interbody cage is somewhat rectangular and capable of rotating relative to the plate. The interbody cage interior is packed with graft or bone inductive material. The interbody cage is inserted with the short sides perpendicular to the endplates. The plate is secured to the adjacent vertebrae. The cage is then rotated 90 degrees such that the short sides are parallel to the endplates and locked in place. During the locking procedure, the material within the cage could be compressed (if desired).

## 2. Advantages of this invention over what was done before and problems solved:

Ensures controlled compression of the interbody cage and contained graft material. Ensures cage and contained graft are in intimate contact with the prepared vertebral body endplates. Plate resists tensile loads during extension and may justify this device as a "stand alone" interbody construct.

- Plate prevents the vertebral bodies from distracting (i.e., separating) while the cage is rotated, thereby ensuring compression of the cage.

## 3. Describe your idea on attached sheets, providing whatever drawings or other sketches are necessary to completely describe the idea. Copies of engineering notebook sheets may be provided. All addendum sheets must be signed, witnessed and dated.

Inventor (Print/Type) Fred Molz Address: 201 Pikes Peak Drive, Collierville, TN 38017	Witness (Print/Type) Roy Lim Signature <i>Ray Lim</i> Date [REDACTED] Read, Witnessed and Understood
Citizenship: USA Signature <i>Fred J. Molz, II</i> Date [REDACTED]	Signature <i>Ray Lim</i> Date [REDACTED]
Inventor Address:	Witness (Print/Type) Steve Peckham Signature <i>Steve Peckham</i> Date [REDACTED] Read, Witnessed and Understood
Citizenship: Signature	Signature <i>Steve Peckham</i> Date [REDACTED]
Inventor Address:	Signature Approval <i>Mike C. Oden</i> Date [REDACTED]
Citizenship: Signature	President, Technology Development

Rev. [REDACTED]

**INVENTION DISCLOSURE**Disclosure No. PC860.00

Project No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sheet 2 of 3

List patents, publications and products which you are aware of and which preceded your invention.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fred Molz  
Inventor

Fred J. Molz, IV

Date

Read, Witnessed and Understood

Date

Inventor

Date

Read, Witnessed and Understood

Date

Inventor

Date

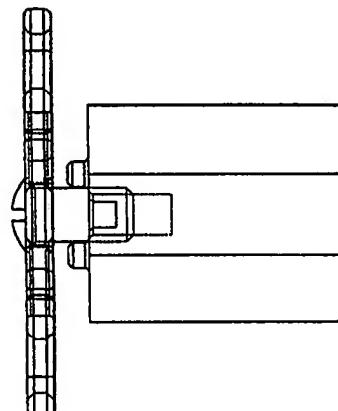
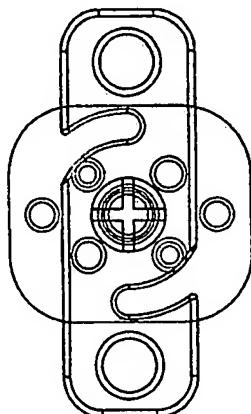
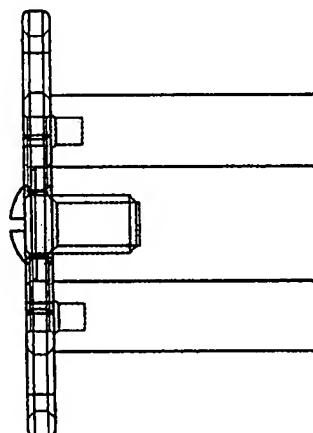
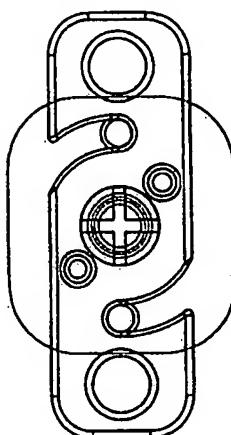
Rev. [REDACTED]

**INVENTION DISCLOSURE**Disclosure No. PC860.00

Project No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sheet 3 of 3 00**Drawings and Description of Idea**

See attached drawings

**Figure 1: Front view of unlocked construct****Figure 2: Side view of unlocked construct****Figure 3: Front view of locked construct****Figure 4: Side view of locked construct**

Fred Molz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred J. Molz, II".

Date

Read, Witnessed and Understood

Date

Inventor

Date

Read, Witnessed and Understood

Date

Inventor

Date

Rev. A small rectangular box with a black redaction mark over it.



**Medtronic**

Medtronic Sofamor Danek  
1800 Pyramid Place  
Memphis, TN 38132  
[www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)

tel 800.876.3133

August 12, 2003

VIA FED EX

*RECEIVED*

*AUG 21 2003*

*Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty,  
McNatt & Henry LLP*

Brad A. Schepers, Esq.  
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty,  
McNatt & Henry, LLP  
Bank One Center/Tower  
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137

RE: Combination Plate and Interbody Fusion Construct and Method for  
Implanting  
Your Ref. No. 4002-3240  
Our Ref. No. PC860.00

Dear Brad:

We would like you to prepare a draft utility patent application on the above-referenced invention disclosure. Please prepare the application for a fee not to exceed [REDACTED] including drawings. This fee does not include filing fees. If this meets with your approval, please sign the enclosed form and fax it back to me at (901) 344-1583. Although I am not aware of any pending bar dates, we would like to receive the draft application no later than November 9, 2003. Please note that we will send by separate letter the billing instructions relating to this application.

Additionally, please have the application prepared in accordance with the attached Patent Application Drafting Guidelines.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James J. Bindseil  
Senior Patent Counsel

JJB:smc

Enc.

cc: Fred Molz